

FACT SHEET: CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS COURT PROGRAM



Program Overview

The Co-Occurring Disorders Court (CODC) started in April 2007 as a pilot project to supervise criminal defendants that were clinically diagnosed with a mental illness and a substance abuse disorder. The program involves collaborative treatment (mental health and substance abuse treatment) during an 18 month period. The CODC program is a unique partnership between the criminal justice system, the drug treatment community and the mental health community.

In October 2008, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) received a Federal-funded enhancement grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to provide residential services for CODC clients. Residential services for the program are provided at the Antelope Valley Rehabilitation Center in Acton.

Court supervision of the CODC program is housed in the [Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center](#) located at 210 West Temple Street, Division 42, Los Angeles, California 90012. The presiding Judge is the Honorable Michael Tynan.

Who is eligible for the program?

- ◆ The primary target population for the program is non-violent felony drug offenders who have both a severe, chronic substance abuse disorder and serious, persistent mental illness, and are homeless or at risk for homelessness and have had frequent contacts with the criminal justice system.
- ◆ Participants that have repeatedly failed in Proposition 36 programs or Drug Court due to their underlying mental illness.

What do I do if I have a client that may be a good match for the program?

Referrals into to CODC program are filtered by the Public Defender's office. If you feel that you have a client that is suitable for the CODC program, please contact your client's Public Defender and request that the client information be referred to the CODC Public Defender, Mark Dewitt, for review.

The success of the CODC program is due to the collaborative efforts of the following Los Angeles County agencies:

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| ◆ Superior Court | ◆ District Attorney | ◆ Chief Executive Office |
| ◆ Department of Mental Health | ◆ Public Defender | ◆ Alternate Public Defender |
| ◆ Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee | ◆ Department of Public Health, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control | ◆ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Treatment Providers |